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MY LITTLE PONY III

"Spike At Your Service"

Episode 307

Written by

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**TEASER**

**INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - DAY**

RARITY is in her shop checking herself in the mirror, trying on A NEW HAT. She frowns, adjusting it one way, then another, then another, growing increasingly frustrated and disappointed. SPIKE stands nearby, looking on adoringly.

1           RARITY

I spent hours making this hat but now I think it's wretched. What do you think, Spike?

2           SPIKE

Wow, I love it, too. It's like the most wretched thing I've ever seen.

Rarity BLINKS at Spike for a beat.

3           RARITY

Wretched means terrible, Spike. Awful, an absolute abomination.

4           SPIKE

(sheepish)

Oh.

5           RARITY

Perhaps a well-selected accoutrement can salvage this travesty. A ribbon perhaps?

6           SPIKE

I'll fetch a ribbon!

Spike rushes over to some NEARBY BOXES and starts RUMMAGING noisily through them... then RUMMAGES some more.

7           RARITY

That won't be necessary. I can find--

CRASH! Spike knocks over a lamp as he continues to RUMMAGE. Rarity winces.

8           RARITY (CONT'D)

Really, Spike, you don't need to--

9           SPIKE

I insist. You said you needed a ribbon, and I will find you one. Just not sure which one.

Spike considers the box of ribbons. \*

10 RARITY  
Well, I have on a turquoise hat, maroon pantaloons, and an aqua sash. Of course a cobalt ribbon would be best!  
(then)  
But, really, I can retrieve it myself. \*

11 SPIKE  
Won't be necessary. Spike is on the case. \*

Spike blocks her path and RUNS to the BOX OF BLUISH RIBBONS, and pulls one of the rolls out of it.

12 RARITY  
That's not cobalt. That's azure.

Spike offers another roll.

13 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Nope. That's indigo.

With undiminished enthusiasm, Spike reaches into the box and pulls out roll after roll of ribbon, through..

14 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Nope, cerulean.  
(then)  
Nope, cornflower.  
(then)  
Nope, beryl...

15 SPIKE  
Wow, Rarity. You know so many cool crazy color names!  
(holds up another)  
I can't wait to find out what this one's called.

16 RARITY  
That's blue.

17 SPIKE  
Oh.

Spike flashes an embarrassed smile. \*

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER. \*

MAIN TITLES

ACT I

**INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - LATER**

APPLEJACK is in Rarity's shop trying on a new pair of rubber boots Rarity made.

18      APPLEJACK

Thanks for making me these new boots,  
Rarity. **H**ow I itch to get back to  
workin' the land with these babies on.  
Why, they're just about perfect.

\*

19      RARITY

Yes, well, I paid special attention to  
the stitching to ensure that it would  
hold without drawing attention away from  
the glossy finish of the leather trim.

20      APPLEJACK

(stomping around in them)  
All they need is one teeny tiny thing.

\*

Applejack crosses over to Rarity's windowsill, through...

21      RARITY

Oh, I think I see what you mean. A pearl  
inlay. No, wait, I know - I can emboss  
it with an ever-so-subtle paisley -

Applejack uses mud from Rarity's recently-watered potted plants to SPLOTCH mud all over her new boots.

22      RARITY (CONT'D)

Gaaah!!!!

23      APPLEJACK

There. Perfect. What good's a pair of work boots if they ain't a total mess, am I right?

24      RARITY

(horrified)

If you... say so...

SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH... Applejack is by now serenely shoving her feet deep into the PLANT MUD.

25      APPLEJACK

Ooh, that's good.

26 RARITY  
(squeaking)  
I can't watch.

Rarity squeezes her eyes closed just as Spike enters.

27 SPIKE  
Rarity, I -

28 RARITY  
(startled)  
Yaaaah!

Rarity STUMBLES backward, CRASHING into LAMPS and FURNITURE, knocking a pot over, the contents SPILLING onto her head.

29 APPLEJACK  
There, ya see. Nothing like good old fashioned dirt, eh Rarity?

30 RARITY  
(simmering)  
You wanted something, Spike?

31 SPIKE  
Just thought you should know I still haven't found you any crinkleberries. But don't you worry. I told you I would find them and find them I shall!

Spike darts off. Applejack looks to Rarity, confused.

32 APPLEJACK  
You have him looking for crinkleberries?

33 RARITY  
I casually mentioned how much I love to use them to dye my fabrics and he promised to find me some.

Rarity busies herself putting away some fabrics.

34 APPLEJACK  
C'mon now. You know as well as I do that crinkleberries are near impossible to find this time of year. That poor dragon's on a fool's errand.

Rarity stops putting away the fabrics to face Applejack.

35 RARITY

I tried to tell him that. Even mentioned  
that I didn't really need any  
crinkleberries, but he insisted on  
looking for them anyway.

36 APPLEJACK

Mmm-hmm. I'm sure you really put your  
hoof down.

(then)

Guess you won't mind if I try telling him  
to call off the search.

37 RARITY

Of course not. Though I doubt he'll  
listen to you either. Trust me, he is a  
very persistent little dragon.

Applejack takes this as a challenge.

38 APPLEJACK

Uh-huh. We'll see.

**EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER**

FLUTTERSHY sits enjoying the company of flowers and  
butterflies, though she's a little distracted by Spike,  
who DARTS this way and that, checking behind every bush  
and, quite literally, leaving no stone unturned.

39 FLUTTERSHY

What's going on, Spike?

40 SPIKE

Sorry, Fluttershy. No time to talk.  
Looking for something Rarity needs super-  
badly. I'll search every inch of  
Ponyville if that's what it takes.

Spike then stops to stare at Fluttershy.

41 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Ahem.

42 FLUTTERSHY

What?

Spike officially points at her butt. Fluttershy lifts  
it. Spike looks underneath it but comes up empty.

43 SPIKE

As you were.

Fluttershy sits back down. Spike looks up at an  
approaching RAINBOW DASH.

44 SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Ooh, Rainbow Dash. Got a sec?

45 RAINBOW DASH  
Sure. What's up, little man?

46 SPIKE  
When you're up flying around the clouds  
and stuff, do you ever look down and  
notice anything that resembles a berry?

47 RAINBOW DASH  
Uh, yeah. Berries.

48 SPIKE  
How about crinkleberries? Have you seen  
any of those around?

49 RAINBOW DASH  
Sorry.

50 SPIKE  
Hmm. Alright. Well, keep an eye out for  
me, would ya, sport?

Just then, Applejack approaches.

51 APPLEJACK  
That won't be necessary.

52 SPIKE  
(excited)  
Why? Did you find some?

53 APPLEJACK  
No. But that doesn't mean you should keep  
looking. Fact of the matter is, you're  
'bout as likely to find a crinkleberry as  
you are a fish living in an apple tree.  
(then)  
You could be searchin' for days. Weeks.  
Months even. I'm guessin' Twilight  
wouldn't be too happy about losin' you  
for that long.

Spike reacts.

54 SPIKE  
Twilight!

Spike darts off. Applejack smiles, victorious. \*

**INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER**

Twilight is engrossed in a book. She's surrounded by crates filled with them. She doesn't even look up as Spike bursts into the room.

55 SPIKE

So, so sorry. There's something very important I have to do for Rarity and it's taking me longer than I thought it would. In fact, it could take days. Weeks. Months even.

A beat. Twilight keeps reading.

56 SPIKE (CONT'D)

But I gave her my word I'd come through for her and you know how important it is for me to keep my word, so...?

Another beat. Twilight keeps reading... then finally looks over, noticing Spike for the first time.

57 TWILIGHT

Oh hey, Spike. Were you saying something?  
(then)  
Princess Celestia just sent me all these new books to read. You know how I get when I'm studying.

58 SPIKE

I got something I gotta do.

59 TWILIGHT

Take all the time you need.

60 SPIKE

(fist pump)

Yes!

Spike BOLTS. Twilight gets back to reading.

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - A LITTLE LATER**

Applejack stands knee deep in a MARSH, using a POOL SKIMMER NET to collect apples that have fallen off the overhanging trees. A BIRD happens by and hovers, CHIRPING.

61       APPLEJACK  
          (to bird)

So you think you got it good, do ya?  
Well, I wouldn't trade places with you  
for a minute. Scooping apples, standing  
knee deep in mud... I tell ya, this is  
the life.

The bird CHIRPS some more.

62       APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Oh yeah? Well, I can make music too, ya  
know.

Applejack lifts her feet to a beat, the SUCTION from the  
mud making its own sort of strange music: SPLORTCH,  
SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH... when suddenly...

A distant ROAR can be heard coming from the Everfree  
Forest behind her.

63       SPIKE

(in the distance)

Help! Somebody! Helllllp!

Alarmed, Applejack stops what she is doing and makes a  
beeline for the forest.

**EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - MOMENTS LATER**

Applejack runs through the woods, looking about  
frantically.

64       APPLEJACK

Spike? Spike! Where are you?

ANGLE ON Spike. He's holding a branch covered with red,  
crinkly berries and cowering under a giant, menacing  
PANTHEON... a panther with the hooves of a boar.

65       SPIKE

O-o-o-o-over h-h-h-h-ere.

66       PANTHEON

<terrifying roar>

FADE TO BLACK.

END ACT I

ACT II

**EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - A MOMENT LATER**

Spike is still cowering in fear as Applejack faces down  
the Pantheon.

67       APPLEJACK  
Come and get me, ya big goon!

The Pantheon abandons Spike and begins chasing Applejack.

68       APPLEJACK (CONT'D)  
(running away)  
Now's your chance, Spike! Run!

69       SPIKE  
Don't worry. I'm running! I'm running!

70       PANTHEON  
<mighty roar>

Applejack flees toward a nearby PILE OF BOULDERS, with  
the pantheon in HOT PURSUIT.

Applejack now appears to be cornered, but then she steps  
behind a mound of the SMALLER BOULDERS, and - rearing and  
kicking - begins FIRING THEM at the pantheon, one after  
another in rapid succession. (NOTE: We don't see them hit  
the pantheon, just hear his roars and see the aftermath.)

71       PANTHEON (CONT'D)  
<bewildered roar>

Soon the pantheon has a sufficient pummelling that it  
TURNS TAIL and FLEES back into the forest.

Spike, completely awed, rushes over to Applejack.

72       SPIKE  
Wow, Applejack - that was amazing. You  
saved my life!

73       APPLEJACK  
Aw, don't mention it. C'mon, we should  
be headin' on back now.

Applejack turns to go, but Spike's still blown away.

74       SPIKE  
I mean you rocketed those boulders at him  
like they were... rockets. Pow! Pow!  
Pow! Pow!

As he gestures with his arms, Applejack notes the berry-covered branch in his hand.

75      APPLEJACK  
Are those, crinkleberries?

76      SPIKE  
I think so. They're berries and they're  
pretty crinkly.  
(then, to himself)  
Probably should've gotten a better  
description from Rarity before I started  
looking for them.

77      APPLEJACK  
But I thought I told you, ya didn't need  
to keep lookin' for those.

78      SPIKE  
You did. But I promised Rarity I would  
find them, so I kept at it 'til I did.  
(then re: the berries)  
Better take these to her.  
(then, somber)  
Of course I'll also need to break the  
news to Twilight.

79      APPLEJACK  
(confused)  
What news?

80      SPIKE  
I'll be right back.

Spike darts off, leaving an even more confused AJ behind.

81      APPLEJACK  
(calling after him)  
Whatta ya mean you'll be right back?

**INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - SOON AFTER**

Rarity is using her magic to drape some fabric over a mannequin. Spike bursts through the front door and presents her with the crinkleberries.

82      RARITY  
(sincere)  
Spike, you really didn't have to--

Spike rushes off before she can finish.

**INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - A LITTLE LATER**

Twilight is still completely absorbed in her reading, so much so that she doesn't even seem to notice Spike RUN into the room, PANTING.

83 SPIKE

Twilight, there's been a big change in my situation, and I felt it my sworn duty to keep you in the loop.

A beat. Twi keeps on reading, not even looking up.

84 TWILIGHT

Mmmmm-hmmmm.

85 SPIKE

Applejack just saved my life from a horrible, dragon-eating pantheon, and, as you are probably aware, this means I must serve her morning noon and night for the rest of my natural born days. I'm sure you understand.

A beat.

86 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Sorry to break the news to you like this, but I felt the best way to handle it was to just come out and say it.

A beat.

87 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Farewell.

(tearing up)

It's been an honor to serve you.

Spike RUSHES OUT. Twilight hasn't looked up once.

88 TWILIGHT

(turning a page)

Mmmmm-hmmmm. Sounds good. Just make sure to be back by dinner...

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - CIDER PRESS - LATER**

Applejack holds a rake in her mouth and rakes up apples as Spike approaches. Spike takes the rake from Applejack.

89 SPIKE \*  
Have a seat. I got this. \*

90 APPLEJACK \*  
What are you doing? \*

91 SPIKE \*  
Raking apples. \*

92 APPLEJACK \*  
I can see that. \*  
(a beat) \*  
Can I have my rake back now? \*

93 SPIKE \*  
Nope. \*

Spike just keeps on raking. \*

94 APPLEJACK \*  
Seriously, I can do this myself. I \*  
really don't mind. \*

95 SPIKE \*  
Don't be silly. Relax. Have an apple \*  
cider. Here... \*

Spike RUNS O.S. and runs back with a seat for Applejack. \*

Spike gestures for Applejack to sit. Applejack complies. \*

Spike RUNS IN OUT OF FRAME WITH CARTOONY SPEED, setting \*  
Applejack up with a way to recline, a sun umbrella, \*  
etc... and then, finally... \*

... Spike runs back with a CIDER PRESS, presses a small \*  
pile of apples, grabs the bucket and POURS A NICE TALL \*  
GLASS OF FRESHLY PRESSED APPLE CIDER for Applejack, adds \*  
a SPRIG OF GREEN, and serves. \*

96 SPIKE (CONT'D) \*  
There you are. Enjoy. \*  
(then, like a waiter) \*  
Can I get you anything else? \*

97 APPLEJACK \*  
Yeah. My rake. I'd like to get back to \*  
work now. \*

Spike laughs. \*

98 SPIKE

Oh, Applejack, Applejack, Applejack. Not  
only are you a brave, life-saving pony,  
you're funny, too. You've got it all.

99 APPLEJACK

Except my rake.

100 SPIKE

Shh. Relax. Spike's got this.  
(then)  
Here.

Spike produces a PAIR OF SUNGLASSES and puts them on  
Applejack himself.

101 SPIKE (CONT'D)

For the glare.

Spike gets work. Applejack does her best to just go with  
it and relax. Then...

102 APPLEJACK

You know, I don't make one big pile like  
that. I make lots of small little piles  
which -

103 SPIKE

Shh...

Spike keeps on raking, <HUMMING HAPPILY> to himself.  
Applejack doesn't seem to be enjoying this at all.

104 APPLEJACK

Okay then... well... thanks for the help.

Applejack gets up and walks away.

105 SPIKE

Don't mention it. You saved my life.  
It's the least I can do.

Looking up, Spike sees that Applejack is gone. He looks  
a round, briefly panicked.

106 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Applejack?

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SOON AFTER**

Elsewhere on the farm, Applejack is rolling hay.

Spike runs up. \*

107 SPIKE  
There you are. Here, let me do that for  
you. \*

Spike starts pushing Applejack out of the way. \*

108 APPLEJACK  
Now you stop right there, Spike. What in  
the great gobs of gophers has gotten into  
you? \*

109 SPIKE  
You saved my life, I must repay you in  
every way I can. \*

110 APPLEJACK  
Aw, that's real nice of you. But a simple  
"thank you" will suffice. \*

Applejack tries to return to her hay, but Spike stops  
her. \*

111 SPIKE  
For saving my life? I don't think so.  
According to the ancient Dragon Code, I  
am now bound to spend the rest of my life  
serving you. \*

112 APPLEJACK  
What do you mean "the rest of your life"?  
As in the "rest of your life" rest of  
your life?  
(then)  
You can't be serious. \*

Spike gets a very serious look on his face. \*

113 SPIKE  
A dragon never jokes about the Dragon  
Code. \*

114 APPLEJACK  
But-- \*

115 SPIKE  
Never. \*

DISSOLVE TO: \*

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SOON AFTER**

Spike struggles to budge the lever on the cider press.

116 SPIKE  
Argh! This is really hard.

117 APPLEJACK  
Which is why you should just let me do it.

118 SPIKE  
I got this. Go away.

Applejack reacts, miffed.

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SOON AFTER**

Spike prunes up his face while he pulls a worm from an apple.

119 SPIKE  
Okay, this is kind of gross.

120 APPLEJACK  
Step aside then, sugar cube. I'm sure you won't be breakin' your ancient Dragon Code lettin' me deworm a couple apples.

121 SPIKE  
Oh, but I would.  
(then)  
And I can't break the ancient Dragon Code. I just can't. I'd never be able to show my face in Ponyville again.  
(then)  
Now sit down and rest. I've got this.

122 APPLEJACK  
But -

123 SPIKE  
Sit!

Applejack sits.

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SOON AFTER**

Spike scoops goop and muck from the bottom of a barrel.

124 SPIKE

Wow. Who knew apples could actually make something so disgusting?

125 APPLEJACK

You're right. It is pretty disgusting.  
(then, eager)  
Better let me do it.

126 SPIKE

Forget about it. Sit.  
(as if to a dog)  
Sit. Siiiiiiiiit.

Resistance is futile...

127 APPLEJACK

<exasperated sigh>

Applejack sits again.

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - LATER**

Applejack and Spike are in a tug-of-war over a bundle of hay, yanking it back and forth. (NOTE: Though Applejack is frustrated, Spike remains eager and good-natured throughout.)

128 APPLEJACK

Let go!

129 SPIKE

No, I have to do this for you.

130 APPLEJACK

But I like rolling hay. I like pressing cider. I like mucking apple pulp out of cider barrels. I like pulling worms out of apples. I don't just like it, I love it!

Spike lets go of the hay.

131 SPIKE

Oh, I get it.

Applejack brightens.

132 APPLEJACK

You do?

133 SPIKE

You're saying you "love" all this stuff  
to get me off the hook so I don't have to  
do all this work for you anymore. That's  
what a nice, brave noble pony you are. It  
makes me only that much more devoted to  
serving you for the rest of my life.

Spike finally YANKS the bundle free from Applejack and  
RUNS off toward the hay field.

134 APPLEJACK

(calling after)

I'm not lying. It's the truth. I swear!

**EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER**

Rarity, wearing a pink frock, sees a forlorn Applejack.

135 RARITY

Oh, hi, Applejack.

She does a little spin to show off her outfit.

136 RARITY (CONT'D)

Like the color of my new outfit? The  
fabric was dyed with crinkleberries.

137 APPLEJACK

It's real nice.

138 RARITY

And where did I get those crinkleberries,  
I wonder? Couldn't have been from Spike.  
After all, you were going to tell him he  
didn't need to look for them.

139 APPLEJACK

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. You were right. I was  
wrong. He is a very persistent dragon.

Rarity gloats for a moment, then notes the genuinely  
forlorn expression on her friend's face.

140 RARITY

Oh, Applejack, I'm just teasing you. You  
know I don't mean anything by it.

141 APPLEJACK

S'pose I deserve a little ribbin' for  
accusing you of tryin' to take advantage  
of Spike.

(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

(then)

Just that ever since I saved him from  
that Pantheon and he decided to dedicate  
his entire life to doin' all my chores,  
I've been a bit down in the dumps.

142 RARITY

Yes, well that would -- wait. What?!

Spike was attacked by a Pantheon?

(genuine concern)

He wasn't hurt was he?

143 APPLEJACK

He's fine. More than fine. Right now he's  
collectin' scraps for the compost heap.

Applejack <SIGHS>.

144 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Lucky guy.

145 RARITY

Oh, I am so glad he's alright.

(then)

I knew I should have tried harder to stop  
him from looking for those berries.

(then)

But I suppose part of me was looking  
forward to him finding them. If anyone  
was going to locate a berry that is  
completely out-of-season, it's Spike.

146 APPLEJACK

Yep. When that dragon says he's gonna do  
somethin'. He's gonna do it. No matter  
how many times you tell him you don't  
want him to.

147 RARITY

But what about Twilight? Surely she can  
talk some sense into him.

148 APPLEJACK

Yeah. She seems to be a bit pre-occupied  
at the moment.

FLASH TO:

INT. TWILIGHT'S ROOM - FLASHBACK

Twilight is reading. Applejack stands behind her.

149 APPLEJACK

...so, you know, if there's anything you think you could do to convince him not to follow this whole "Dragon Code", I sure would appreciate it hearing it.

Applejack waits patiently for Twilight to respond.  
Nothing.

150 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Twilight? You hear what I said?

151 TWILIGHT

(distracted)

"Wagon Toad". Uh-huh. I'll take three.

FLASH BACK TO:

**EXT. PONYVILLE - THE PRESENT**

Applejack <SIGHS> and hangs her head.

152 RARITY

I can't help but feel partially responsible for your predicament. Spike might never have been in harm's way if I hadn't mentioned how much I adore crinkleberry dye.

(then, an idea)

And that is why I feel it is my duty to help you get out of it.

Applejack looks up, intrigued.

153 APPLEJACK

I'm listenin'.

154 RARITY

It's going to involve a bit of acting on your part.

155 APPLEJACK

Acting?

**EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - LATER**

Rarity stands with Applejack in the woods.

156 RARITY

Okay, so the key here is for Spike to rescue you, just like you rescued him.  
(MORE)

RARITY (CONT'D)  
That way you're both even and things can  
go back to the way they were.

157 APPLEJACK  
**Makes sense to me.**

158 RARITY  
But we must make it convincing. **H**e's got  
to be thoroughly convinced the danger is  
absolutely real.

Just then, Rarity and Applejack are approached by Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy, EACH WEARING HALF OF A PANTHEON COSTUME. Rainbow Dash has the panther-head half, while Fluttershy wears the boar-behind half.

159 APPLEJACK  
(re: costumes)  
Uh... and this is supposed to be a what?

160 PANTHEON  
A Pantheon costume.

161 RAINBOW DASH  
Duh.

162 RARITY  
I made it myself.

163 APPLEJACK  
I thought we were trying to be  
convincing.

164 RAINBOW DASH  
Ooh, burn!

165 FLUTTERSHY  
Don't worry. We'll sell it with a  
terrifying roar.

They all look at Fluttershy for a beat. She SHRINKS MEEKLY.

166 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)  
Er... well... at least Rainbow Dash will,  
anyway.

167 RARITY  
Now hide, quickly. Spike will be here  
any moment.

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy SCURRY off into the woods  
with their costumes. Applejack follows.

168 RARITY (CONT'D)  
(to Applejack)

Not you! Come back here.  
(then)

When Spike shows up, I want you to just  
act natural but then, when I give the  
signal, the "monster" will come. That's  
when you get your foot stuck so Spike has  
to come to your rescue.

\*

169 APPLEJACK

And you'll be there to help convince  
Spike to save you me case he gets to  
scared to do it?

170 RARITY

Precisely.

(then)

Now remember, you must make Spike really  
and truly believe you need rescuing.  
Show me the your best damsel in distress  
moves.

171 APPLEJACK

Uh... oh... well... how's this.

Applejack tries one...

172 RARITY

Terrible. No, it's got to be more like  
this.

Rarity demonstrates a world-class swoon.

173 APPLEJACK

Oh, okay. You mean like this?

Applejack tries again.

174 RARITY

Absolutely horrendous. Okay, this needs  
some serious work.

(demonstrates)

Now first you must lift your foreleg up  
to your forehead like so...

175 APPLEJACK

No time! Here he comes!

Spike pushes his way through the woods into the clearing.

176 SPIKE

Rarity, what a surprise. I was expecting  
see Applejack. She said she had a new  
chore for me to do. I can hardly wait!

177 APPLEJACK

Over here, Spike. I was just hoping you  
could maybe sweep up all these leaves for  
the compost pile and -

Spike WHIPS OUT a RAKE he brought.

178 SPIKE

Ooh! I was hoping you would say that!

179 APPLEJACK

And then maybe you could -

(then, bad acting)

- oh no, I seem to have got my hoof  
caught between two rocks. Perhaps I am  
in peril. This is where the pantheon  
almost attacked you, is it not. I am...  
a damsel in distress!

Rarity shakes her head at the pitiful display.

180 RARITY

(under her breath)

Terrible. Just terrible.

181 SPIKE

Look, Applejack, if this is just another  
attempt to get me off the hook for paying  
you back for saving my life, I'm not  
buying it. You want me to rake these  
leaves or not?

182 APPLEJACK

Help... rescue me... someone...

183 RARITY

I don't know, Spike. Looks like someone  
should really help her before...

Rarity SNAPS HER FINGERS behind her back. It's the  
signal.... and the pantheon-costumed ponies come ROARING  
into the clearing from the forest.

184 RARITY (CONT'D)

... oh no, the pantheon!

185 FAKE PANTHEON

<kinda mighty roar>

186 RARITY  
Someone save Applejack! Help! Someone!

187 SPIKE  
Oh please. I can see right through this act. She's fine.  
(then, to Rarity, flirty)  
Say, something's different. Mane parted on the other side, maybe?

188 RARITY  
Why, that's awfully nice of you to noti-

189 PANTHEON (O.S.)  
<truly mighty roar>

Hearing this, everyone looks around, including the ponies in the pantheon costume.

190 FAKE PANTHEON  
What in Equestria was that? \*

Suddenly, the REAL PANTHEON comes STORMING out of the forest into the clearing.

191 APPLEJACK  
Oh no...

Applejack tries to free her leg, but it truly is stuck between two rocks.

192 RARITY  
You're really stuck???

193 APPLEJACK  
You said make it convincing!

194 PANTHEON  
<terrifying roar>

Off Rarity and Applejack's horrified expressions we... \*

END ACT II \*

ACT III \*

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST \*

Applejack is still stuck and the Pantheon is still on the rampage. Unaware that their friend is in danger, the FAKE PANTHEON SPLITS INTO TWO as Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy both high-tail it out of there. \*

\*

195 FAKE PANTHEON  
Run!

196 RARITY  
Spike, hurry! Applejack's still stuck!  
We really do need someone to save  
Applejack now!

197 SPIKE  
Oh puh-lease. That first pantheon was a  
total bust, so now I'm supposed to  
believe the second one is real. How many  
fake pantheons to you have back there  
anyway?

(then)  
You know, your mane really looks terrific  
that way. It's a nice change of pace.

198 RARITY  
You think so?

199 APPLEJACK  
Help?? Someone?? Anyone!!

The pantheon is closing in on Applejack.

200 RARITY  
Spike now!  
(nothing)  
Go!  
(still nothing)  
Save her!

201 SPIKE  
Have you considered getting your mane  
layered.

202 RARITY  
Uch! Forget it!

Rarity LEAPS INTO ACTION, racing into harm's way and  
FREEING Applejack's leg just in time for them to both run  
out of there. The pantheon gives chance. Meanwhile...

203 SPIKE  
Look, I can see you guys are going all  
out here but there's not a chance I'll  
ever believe -

The pantheon gets right in Spike's face.

204 PANTHEON  
<withering roar>

205 SPIKE  
(less sure now)  
Wow, you two really pulled out all the stops...

Applejack and Rarity ZIP over and YANK Spike along with them on their escape.

206 SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Yaaaah!

**EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - LATER**

Spike, Applejack and Rarity run through the bushes and then duck behind one, panting.

207 RARITY  
I think we lost him for now.

208 APPLEJACK  
We'll wait here till the coast is clear, then we can escape the rest of the way.

209 SPIKE  
So he was real!

210 RARITY  
That's what we've been trying to tell you!

211 APPLEJACK  
Shh. Keep it down or he'll hear us.

212 SPIKE  
I almost let him get you, Applejack.  
That's not living up to the Dragon Code!

213 APPLEJACK  
Calm down, Spike. It's okay.

214 SPIKE  
No it's not! I'm a terrible dragon!

215 APPLEJACK  
Shh! Don't worry about it.

216 SPIKE  
How can I not worry about it! After what you did to save me then I didn't save you. That's wretched.  
(then)  
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Which means terrible, awful, an  
abomination. Rarity taught me that word.

\*  
\*

217 APPLEJACK

Wonderful. Quiet please.

\*  
\*

218 SPIKE

How can I ever forgive myself?

\*

219 APPLEJACK

I'm sure there are lots of ways.

\*  
\*

Applejack glances over the bushes and seeks the pantheon  
LURKING NEARBBY.

\*  
\*

220 SPIKE

Name one.

\*  
\*

221 APPLEJACK

Can't we talk about them later?

\*  
\*

222 SPIKE

I failed the Dragon Code.

(bawling)

Aah, hah, hah, hah -

\*  
\*

Applejack SHOVES A HOOF IN SPIKE'S MOUTH, silencing him  
at the precise moment the pantheon STALKS PAST their  
bush, SNIFFING and SEARCHING.

\*  
\*

Then, once the pantheon has PASSED A SAFE DISTANCE,  
Applejack removes her hoof.

\*  
\*

A beat.

\*

223 SPIKE (CONT'D)

(bawling again)

Aah, hah hah hah -

\*  
\*

Applejack shoves her hoof in his mouth again.

\*

224 RARITY

It seems like for us to have any chance  
of getting out of here safely, we must  
find a way to set all this right.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

225 APPLEJACK

And how exactly do you propose we do  
that?

\*  
\*  
\*

226 RARITY

I'm not quite sure. Maybe the what's-it-  
called... Dragon Rulebook...

\*  
\*  
\*

227 SPIKE  
Dragon Code.

228 RARITY  
Yes. Does it say how to fix something  
like this?

229 SPIKE  
Not really.

230 RARITY  
What if you save a pony's life? Would  
that take care of it?

231 SPIKE  
I guess. Probably.

232 RARITY  
All right then. Looks like we have to  
let Spike save us from the pantheon.

233 SPIKE  
But there's no way. Now that I know he's  
real, I'm way too scared to take him on.

234 RARITY  
But if you saw another pony in danger you  
might not be too scared.

235 SPIKE  
Actually, I think I probably would.

236 RARITY  
One way to find out for sure.

Rarity starts climbing out from behind the bushes.

237 APPLEJACK  
Rarity, where are you going?? That  
pantheon's still around here someplace.

238 RARITY  
Exactly.

Rarity steps into the clearing.

239 RARITY (CONT'D)  
(calling out)  
Yoo hoo... pantheon...

240 APPLEJACK  
(hissing, sotto)  
Rarity, have you lost your mind??

241 RARITY

If I had stopped Spike from looking for  
crinkleberries in the first place like  
you said, none of us would be in this  
mess right now. I suppose this is the  
least I can do.

(then, trotting off)

Come and get me, pantheon.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

The pantheon turns and sees Rarity running.

242 PANTHEON

<ballistic roar>

\*

Rarity FREEZES IN TERROR as the pantheon comes running.

243 RARITY

Come save me, Spike!

\*  
\*

244 SPIKE

Uhh....

\*  
\*

The pantheon's closing in on her.

245 RARITY

Now would be good.

\*

Spike still hesitates - he wants to go but he's  
terrified.

246 APPLEJACK

Rarity, I told you this was a terrible  
idea.

\*  
\*  
\*

247 RARITY

You're right. Changed my mind.

\*

Rarity panics, hurrying back toward the bush where she  
came from.

248 APPLEJACK

What the - ? Don't lead him back here!

\*

249 PANTHEON

(barrelling down on them)

<deafening roar>

\*  
\*  
\*

250 SPIKE

(snapping)

That's it!

(then, to pantheon)

I've had enough of you!

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Spike picks up a small pebble and HURLS it at the pantheon as he races by them toward Rarity. \*

PLINK. The small pebble bounces harmlessly off the pantheon's neck. He turns toward Spike and Applejack. \*

251 APPLEJACK  
Uh oh. Let's go.

ANGLE ON Spike glaring at him and picking up another pebble defiantly. \*

252 SPIKE  
Had enough, punk?  
(re: pebble)  
Plenty more where that came from.

253 APPLEJACK  
Spike, no!

ANGLE BACK ON The Pantheon BURNING WITH RAGE, leaning over toward Spike and letting loose with... \*

254 PANTHEON  
<the nastiest and most overwhelmingly prolonged in-your-face roar imaginable>

Undaunted by the monster's GAPING MAW, Spike leans back and THROWS the pebble... deep into the PANTHEON'S OPEN MOUTH and LODGING SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE ITS THROAT. \*

255 PANTHEON (CONT'D)  
<roar cut off by choking noises>

Applejack, Rarity and Spike all look on as the Pantheon continues to try and dislodge the pebble, to no avail. \*

256 PANTHEON (CONT'D)  
<more gagging and hacking noises in unsuccessful effort to cough up pebble>

The ponies look on in amazement as the pantheon STAGGERS OVER and COLLAPSES, shaking the ground. Upon impact, the pebble is dislodged from him his throat. \*

257 RARITY  
Spike, you did it. You saved us from the pantheon. What a brave dragon you are.

258 SPIKE  
Thanks.

The pantheon STIRS SLIGHTLY. \*

259 SPIKE (CONT'D)  
(crazed with fear)  
Lets get out of here!!!

\*  
\*  
\*

Spike BOLTS, leaving the ponies in the dust. Applejack  
and Rarity exchange glances, then run to try and keep up.

\*  
\*

**EXT. PONYVILLE - A LITTLE LATER**

\*

Spike, Applejack and Rarity all head off safely toward  
home.

\*  
\*

260 APPLEJACK  
You know what impressed me the most,  
Spike?

\*  
\*  
\*

261 SPIKE  
That I didn't cry... much?

\*

262 APPLEJACK  
That that first pebble didn't take the  
pantheon out... but you stood your ground  
and the second one did.

\*

263 RARITY  
That was really something, Spike.

\*

264 APPLEJACK  
I know I've been knocking that  
persistence of yours a bit lately, but  
this is one instance where your  
persistence paid off in a big way.

\*

265 SPIKE  
(brightening)  
Yeah. I guess it did.

\*

266 APPLEJACK  
So... I suppose the Dragon Code is now  
satisfied and you can... um... leave me  
alone to do my work myself. By myself.  
Alone.

\*

267 SPIKE  
I don't know, Applejack. I mean you did  
still save my life, so...

\*

268 RARITY  
But you saved mine.

\*

269 APPLEJACK  
(re: Rarity)

And she saved mine. So I guess that means I have to serve Rarity and do all of her chores.

270 RARITY

But Spike's still supposed to do all your chores for you, right?

271 APPLEJACK

I guess that's right, huh Spike?

272 SPIKE

Um... yeah...

273 RARITY

But if Applejack's supposed to do all my chores and Spike's supposed to do all Applejack's chores, then, Spike's supposed to do all of Applejack's chores AND all of my chores. Right?

274 APPLEJACK

Right.

275 SPIKE

Um... you're losing me...

276 RARITY

But Spike saved me! So that means I have to do all of Spike's chores.

277 APPLEJACK

But if Spike's chores include my chores and your chores...

278 RARITY

Then I have to do all of our chores! But that's not fair!

279 APPLEJACK

You're right. How about we all do all of our chores. That really seems like the most logical thing.

A beat. They all look at each other blankly.

Another beat. Another beat. Another beat. Then...

280 SPIKE

Or we could forget the whole thing and just go back to being friends.

281      **APPLEJACK**      \*

282 RARITY  
Done.

SLAM TO BLACK.

END. \*